

MASTER PLANNING NEWS

GOVERNOR THOMPSON STATE PARK

PESHTIGO RIVER STATE FOREST

April 2003

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Preliminary Management Alternatives for State Park Unveiled

The master planning team has been working with DNR Parks Bureau representatives to create a set of Preliminary Management Alternatives for Governor Thompson State Park. This is the beginning of the planning phase that will actually shape the future appearance and function of Governor Thompson State Park. When you turn to the inside pages of this newsletter you will see tables of information on the Management Alternatives. Tables are being used to try to simplify the presentation of this information. There was such a large amount of descriptive text to be written about this subject that we felt it would be too difficult to read through and comprehend all of it without taking a great deal of your time. We hope you will be able to come to one of our upcoming public meetings. **Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stephenson Town Hall, W11280 CTH X, Crivitz** and on **Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary at 1660 East Shore Drive in Green Bay.** There we can talk with you in person about what this all means. If you can't attend please feel free to share your thoughts or questions by contacting Dan Rogers at PO BOX 10448, 1125 N Military Av, Green Bay WI 54307-0448 Phone (920) 492-5839 FAX (920) 492-5913 or e-mail at daniel.rogers@dnr.state.wi.us

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Address Correction Requested. Please notify us if you no longer wish to receive this type of information.

Governor Thompson State Park

Recreation Alternative Concepts

	<u>Concept 1</u>	<u>Concept 2</u>	<u>Concept 3</u>	<u>Concept 4</u>
General Concept	Primitive outdoor experiences	Primitive but easier outdoor experiences.	More developments, services and comforts within the outdoors	Convenience and comfort in the outdoors
Visitor Experience	Visitors expected to be self-reliant	Visitors would be encouraged to explore areas of the park in primarily a non-motorized mode	Visitor attractions would be convenient and easily accessible	Comfort is emphasized
Relationship to Natural Resources	Recreation is strongly tied to natural resources	Visitors, campsites, and trails would be managed to ensure resource protection and public safety	Recreation is still resource-based, but more as a location advantage.	Recreation is related to specific activities, not the resources
Vehicular Access	Roads lead to park office and boat landing only. All other access is pedestrian only	Roads go to office, boat landing, vicinity of recreation areas	Roads lead to most use areas	Roads to all features, little walking required
Camping Style	Primitive hike-in or canoe-in	Varied - hike/canoe-in, yurt camping, primitive tent/trailer camping	Full range of camping from primitive to more modern tent/trailer campground	Ranges from primitive to full service convenience camping emphasized
Trail Development	Lightly developed	More developed, groomed	Trails well developed, always groomed	Some trails paved or surfaced, others well developed

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Possible Facilities and Activities				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primitive walk-in/canoe-in camping Primitive outdoor group camp Pit toilets Hand pumped water Hiking trails Ski trails Snowshoe trails X-bike trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primitive walk-in/canoe-in camping Primitive outdoor group camp Rent-a-yurt camping Tent/trailer camping, pit toilets, hand pumped water Picnic area Observation tower Hike, ski, snowshoe trails Groomed ski trails Most roads paved X-bike trails Parking near use areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primitive walk-in/canoe-in camping Primitive or modern outdoor group camp Rent-a-yurt camping Tent/trailer camping, electricity, flush toilets & showers optional Picnic area, Shelter Observation tower Hike, ski, snowshoe trails, wider, gentler Groomed ski trails X-bike trails, touring bike paths All roads paved Parking at use areas Nature Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primitive walk-in/canoe-in camping Modern outdoor group camp Indoor group camp Rent-a-yurt camping Tent/trailer camping, electricity, flush toilets & showers Picnic Area, shelter with flush toilets Observation tower Hike, ski, snowshoe trails, wider, gentler Groomed ski trails X-bike trails, paved touring bike paths All roads paved Parking at use areas

EXISTING VEGETATION OF GOVERNOR THOMPSON STATE PARK

A great deal of tree diversity is found within the study area. Some stands are dominated by white and red pine, others by mature scrub oak mixed with red, bur, and white oak, and red and sugar maple. Other trees present include paper birch, trembling and big-toothed aspen *and* basswood, hemlock, and balsam fir. Historically, scrub oak, also called Hill's oak, probably occurred primarily as a shrub in jack pine barrens. This trend of an increase in mature scrub oak following fire suppression is also seen in northwest Wisconsin in the large former jack pine barrens in Burnett, Washburn and Douglas counties. Young white pine, black cherry, red maple, red oak and balsam fir are often found thriving in stands, having moved in from an adjacent seed source. Stands located by the banks of the Peshtigo River will often include wet area trees within a few feet of more upland species. In general, the park is a mixture of Aspen and wetland vegetative coverage. Because of the Aspen harvesting that took place over the years there is a wide size range of Aspen. The uplands also have a mixture of oak and some maple.

Vegetative Management Alternatives			
ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT	NATURAL SUCCESSION	MAINTAIN EXISTING TYPES	RESTORE TO PRE SETTLEMENT TYPES
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, safety and development needs will be met Sanitation of diseased, down & dangerous trees near use areas May treat disease and insect outbreaks Ornamental plants are natives Wetland types undisturbed Shorelines appear natural & wild May create barrens for education May promote old-growth type Passive management No changes to stand types tried 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, safety and development needs will be met Sanitation of diseased, down & dangerous trees near use areas May treat disease and insect outbreaks Ornamental plants are natives Wetland types undisturbed Shorelines appear natural & wild May create barrens for education May promote old-growth type Large trees kept for esthetics Thin red pine plantations for optimum growth Regenerate aspen & oak by harvesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, safety and development needs will be met Sanitation of diseased, down & dangerous trees near use areas May treat disease and insect outbreaks Ornamental plants are natives Wetland types undisturbed Shorelines appear natural & wild May create barrens for education May promote old-growth type Restore red oak, scrub oak, jack pine & barrens Restore swamp conifer types Thin out pine plantations Reduce aspen acreage
Activity Level	Least Activity	Higher Activity	Most Activity

Park Entry Location Alternatives		
PARK ENTRY ALTERNATIVE (Pick one)	NORTH ENTRY Boat Landing #13 Rd.	SOUTH ENTRY Ranch Rd.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be more scenic Closer to Boat Landing #13 Distant from Parkway Road Buffer from Parkway Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easier traffic route Close to future office and shop Easy to find and identify Utilities - water and power supply are established
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More road to build Difficult turn from Parkway Road Difficult to locate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerline R.O.W. Bedrock exposed Less scenic gateway from Ranch Rd.

Management Alternatives to Be Discussed at Next Public Meetings

The major topic of discussion at the next public meetings on **Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stephenson Town Hall, W11280 CTH X, Crivitz** and on **Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary at 1660 East Shore Drive in Green Bay**, will be the recently developed Preliminary Management Alternatives for Governor Thompson State Park. Over the last few weeks, members of the Master Planning Team have been investigating various potential management strategies to be incorporated on Governor Thompson State Park. These strategies include vegetative management alternatives, recreation (development) alternatives, and boundary alternatives. They provide options for forestry, recreation, and wildlife management and development and aim to combine expert opinion with your public input. As always, a property can't be "all-things-to-all-people." The potential alternative plans are contained on pages two and three of this newsletter. You are encouraged to study and then comment on these alternatives during the upcoming public meetings. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you may send comments via letters or email. Contact: Dan Rogers DNR Northeast Region Landscape Architect, PO BOX 10448 1125 N Military Av. Green Bay WI 54307-0448. Phone (920) 492-5839 Fax (920) 492-5913 or e-mail at daniel.rogers@dnr.state.wi.us.

Then What?

We will compile and analyze the information gathered from the public meetings, letters, e-mails and phone calls, and make a second draft of the Preliminary Management Alternatives. At each major decision-making step in the planning process our Basin Partnership Team is consulted for a reality check and the master plan Guidance Team is informed of our progress. While all this is going on we will also be working ahead on addressing some of the issues that will undoubtedly arise. Once we know the general direction the park will take, as shown by the revised Management Alternatives, we can start to devise a list of Objectives. The Objectives are the actions needed to eventually make something happen. They will describe in more detail the quantity, size and location of the components that will comprise the park. Once those tasks are accomplished we will be a lot closer to the master planning finish line. An actual rough draft of the whole master plan document will begin to take shape. Governor Thompson State Park

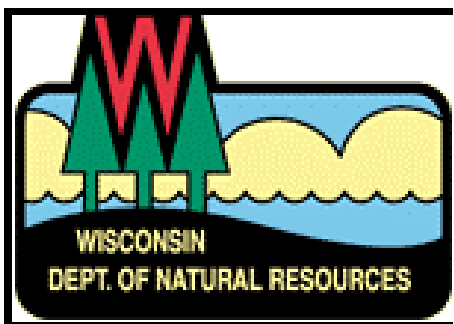
A Greeting from the Park Manager

Although I'd prefer to meet each of you personally, I'll start with introducing myself through this newsletter. My name is Marcia Peeters and I've been "borrowed" from Peninsula State Park in Door County and temporarily reassigned as the property supervisor to Governor Thompson State Park. I look forward to becoming a business member and general neighbor of the local communities; the support and friendliness I have experienced already has been very impressive. I and my supervisors are dedicated to carrying out the directives established by the citizens of Wisconsin through the master-planning process, but we continue to seek your opinions and ideas. Locally, I'm here to keep the process on track, to listen to your concerns and bring them to the attention of the experts and managers who are working diligently in the deliberations necessary to properly and conscientiously develop Governor Thompson State Park.

I began my career with DNR-Bureau of Parks and Recreation in 1981 and have worked at and gained extensive experience at numerous properties throughout the state as clerical support, park management trainee, natural resources law enforcement officer, park manager, assistant manager, recreational specialist, and miscellaneous positions including assignments in land reclamation. I'm quite excited to take on another challenging assignment and to use and further enhance my skills and abilities. There are many property managers and topic experts to advise us (you and me). Basically, we just need to simply get the job done. I need and will seek your input and ideas.

I am usually in the park office or on property five days per week. Please phone ahead if you want to meet me or discuss the progress of the property. The office number is **715-757-3979**. If I'm not available, leave a message and I will get back to you.

My husband Paul, a DNR fisheries manager, and my home are both in Sturgeon Bay; we have two adult children and a couple lazy, spoiled dogs.



Don't Forget! We are also on the WEB! For current information and newsletters regarding Gov. Thompson State Park, the Peshtigo River State Forest, other DNR Master Plans being written, and the latest DNR headlines please visit: www.dnr.state/master_planning.